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PORT OF FOLKESTONE

ANNUAL REPORT

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R.F.H. McElligott, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer.

PORT OF FOLKESTONE.

Public Health Department,
Foord Road,
FOLKESTONE.

-1st February, 1952.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough and Port of Folkestone.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit the Annual Report on the medical aspect of the working of the Port of Folkestone for 1951. This will eventually form a section of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

On the 16th April Dr. J.H. Campbell was appointed as an Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens; the resignations of Dr. J.M.B. Morwood and Dr. M.B. Watson took effect from the 1st May, 1951.

Regular boat services during the year have been as follows:

(a) From Calais.

- (1) Daily passenger service by British Railways steamer from 1st January to 14th August, 1951.
- (2) Daily passenger service by French Steamer Cote d'Azur from 15th August to 31st December, 1951.
- (3) Daily autocarrier service (passengers and cars) as follows:
 - (i) S.S. Dinard from 1st January to 4th February, 1951.
 - (ii) S.S. Autocarrier from 14th July to 7th October, 1951.
 - (iii) S.S. Dinard 1st to 31st December, 1951.

(b) From Boulogne.

- (1) Daily evening passenger service from 22nd June to 6th October, 1951.
- (2) Daily morning passenger service from 30th June to 9th September, 1951.

(c) From Flushing.

- (1) Twice weekly passenger service (arriving in Folkestone on Fridays and Sundays) from 6th July to 2nd September, 1951.

The usual cargo service has been maintained on alternate days to and from Calais and Boulogne.

There has been an increase of 63,759 passengers arriving at and departing from the Port compared with 1950; the gross figures for the past four years being:

	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>
Inwards.	141,660.	252,145.	250,002.	285,782.
Outwards.	133,680.	231,310.	223,446.	251,405.

The number of aliens arriving has also shown a further very marked increase as will be seen from the following summary:-

	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>
Arriving.	34,958.	52,246.	61,840.	65,928.
Examined.	3,029.	5,212.	7,447.	10,740.
Certificates issued.	4.	10.	7.	10.
Percentage examined.	8.7.	10.	12.	16.

3,293 more Aliens were examined in 1951 compared with 1950; this is an increase of 44.2%

The types of aliens arriving are mainly from Italy, Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland and some from Spain, etc. The men come to work as coal miners, tinsplate workers, brickyard workers, railway workers, student nurses, a small number of technical and professional workers with various firms, and hotel workers.

The women are mainly domestics, children's nurses and governesses, student nurses, ward orderlies, textile workers and teachers of languages, etc. The domestic workers mainly come from Switzerland and most of them have a good working knowledge of English. Those who come from Italy and the other countries, with the exception of France, generally do not speak English.

A large proportion of the aliens, especially men for the mines, railways and brickyards, have been through medical boards before leaving their country. This is most helpful to the Medical Inspector when he examines them at the Port of entry, and usually the medical board's documents are available for his scrutiny should any query arise as a result of his examination on any one of the workers.

Systematic medical examination of the women has not yet been undertaken and many women workers have had no proper examination in their country of origin. I still feel it desirable that this should be undertaken.

On occasions very large numbers have had to be examined (on one boat 291 aliens were examined) and this necessitates two and sometimes three Medical Inspectors and a similar number of Nurse-Attendants to control these numbers. Information is received from the Ministry of Labour beforehand and the necessary arrangements are made to ensure sufficient medical staff to deal with the aliens expected to arrive; occasionally, however, they miss their connection, go via Dover, or are unavoidably delayed.

Nine patients arriving at the Harbour (accident cases, chronic sick, Tuberculous, and mental cases) were examined to ensure their fitness to proceed to a destination in England.

Occasional calls are received by the Port Medical Officer to deal with emergency cases taken ill at sea and arriving for immediate treatment, and on one occasion a small vessel (bound from Hull to Paris) put in to Folkestone at 1.0 a.m. in order that emergency treatment could be given to one of the crew, who was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

In order to make the best use of the time available the practice of performing the examinations on board, before disembarkation, has been continued.

I have much pleasure in paying my tribute to the efficient work of the medical and nursing staff at the Harbour and no less to the unfailing co-operation with us of the Immigration Officials, Customs Officials and Ships Staffs.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

R.F.H. McELLIGOTT,

Port Medical Officer.

STAFF.

Acting Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and Medical Inspector of Aliens. (Temporary.)	) R.F.H. McElligott, M.B., Ch.B.,) B.A.O. (Part-time.)))
Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens. (Temporary.)	) Georgette Crosby, M.R.C.S.,) L.R.C.P. (Part-time.)
- ditto -	) J.M.B. Morwood, M.B., B.Ch.) (Belfast) (Part-time.)) (Resigned: -1.5.51.)
- ditto -	) M.B. Watson, B.A., M.R.C.S.,) L.R.C.P. (Part-time.)) (Resigned: -1.5.51.)
- ditto -	) J.H. Campbell, D.S.O., C.B.E.,) M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.) (Commenced: 16.4.51.)
Senior Sanitary Inspector (Borough and Port.) Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937.	)* L.H. Vale, M.R.San.I.,) Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.))
Deputy Sanitary Inspector (Borough and Port.) Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937.	)* L.F. Pattman, A.R.San.I.,) Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.))
Port Health Inspector. Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937.	)* A. Stubbs, Cert. S.I.B.,) M.S.I.A.))
- ditto -	)* E.M. Howells, A.R.San.I.,) Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.) (Resigned: 27.9.51.)
- ditto -	)* D. Prebble, A.R.San.I.,) Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
- ditto -	)* A. Colgan, M.R.San.I.,) Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.) (Commenced: -3.12.51.)
* Also hold Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute as "Inspector of Meat and other Foods."	
Nurse assisting with medical inspection of Aliens.	) Mrs. D. Summerfield, S.R.N.,) C.M.B., Health Visitor and) School Nurses Certificate of) R.S.I. (Part-time.)

I. Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year ended 31st December, 1951.

TABLE A.

	Number Inspected	By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Sanitary Inspectors	Number of inspections made by Port Sanitary Inspectors	Number of reported defects	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
Foreign (Steamers... (* Motor... (Sailing... (Fishing... ..	1,021 3 2 2	954,248 18 9 28	9 1 - 1	810 1 - 1				
Total Foreign ..	1,028	954,303	11	812	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Coast-wise (Steamers... (* Motor... (Sailing... (Fishing... ..	- - 1 -	- - 48 -	- - 1 -	- - 1 -				
Total Coastwise ..	1	48	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise ..	1,029	954,351	Nil	813	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. - CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during 1951.

No. of Passengers.	1st Class	2nd Class	Trans-migrants.
Inwards	285,782		Nil.
Outwards	251,405		Nil.

These figures show a total increase of 63,739 as compared with 1950.

(b) Cargo Traffic.

Principal imports:

Dates, nuts, fruit, vegetables, poultry, meat products, preserved fruit, fish, wines, horses and general cargo of miscellaneous character.

Principal exports:

Motor cars, horses, machinery and general merchandise.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.

Calais, Boulogne and Flushing.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

For the greater part of the year Dr. R.F.H. McElligott with the assistance of Dr. Georgette Crosby and Dr. J.H. Campbell, who was appointed on the 16th April, 1951, carried out these duties. Drs. J.M.B. Morwood and M.B. Watson both resigned their appointments as Assistant Medical Inspectors on the 1st May, 1951.

Compared with 1950 there has been an increase of 44.2% in the number of aliens examined.

For the first eight months of the year approximately 650 examinations were carried out each month, but from September onwards this number had risen to 1,300 a month - these were mostly Italians to work in the coal mines, brickworks, tinplate works and for the British Railways.

Owing to the large numbers arriving at one time it often became necessary for two and sometimes three Medical Inspectors and a corresponding number of Nurse-Attendants to be present; 100-150 examinations at one session were common, the highest number being 291.

Annual Return by the Medical Inspector
of Aliens for the Year ended 31st December, 1951.

(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port ..	Total	Num-ber inspec- ted by the Medi- cal Insp- ector	Num-ber sub- jected to de- tailed exami- nation by the Medi- cal Insp- ector	Certificates issued.					Trans- migrants
				Luna- tic or M.D.	Undes- irable for medi- cal rea- sons	Physi- cally incap- acit- ated	Suff- ering from acute infec- tious dis- ease	Landing nec- essary for ade- quate medical exami- nation	
(b) Aliens re- fused per- mission to land by Immi- gration Officer (for medical reasons)	65,924	-	10,736	-	-	3	2	1	-
(c) Transmigrants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Aliens arriving at the Port ..	65,928	-	10,740	-	3	4	2	1	-

Number of vessels carrying Alien passengers: (a) Passenger ... 729
 (b) Cargo ... 146
 Number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector ... 875

A summary of attendances by the Medical Inspectors is as follows:-

Number of separate occasions when -

(a) 1 Medical Inspector attended	...	461)	
(b) 2 Medical Inspectors "	...	72)	543
(c) 3 " " "	...	10)	occasions.

Prior information is usually received from the Ministry of Labour of the number of immigrants expected to arrive by each boat, and the necessary arrangements are made for sufficient medical and nursing staff to be available; even so there are often last minute alterations, e.g. aliens being unavoidably delayed, missing their boat and arriving by another service, boats being diverted to Dover because of rough weather, etc.

Rooms are available on the train departure platform on the quay, but the usual practice of carrying out the medical examinations in cabins on board passenger ships has been continued.

A trained Nurse-Attendant is present during the inspection of females.

The Annual Return by the Medical Inspector of Aliens is shown on page 6.

An analysis of aliens permitted to land (unconditionally and conditionally) during 1950 is as follows:-

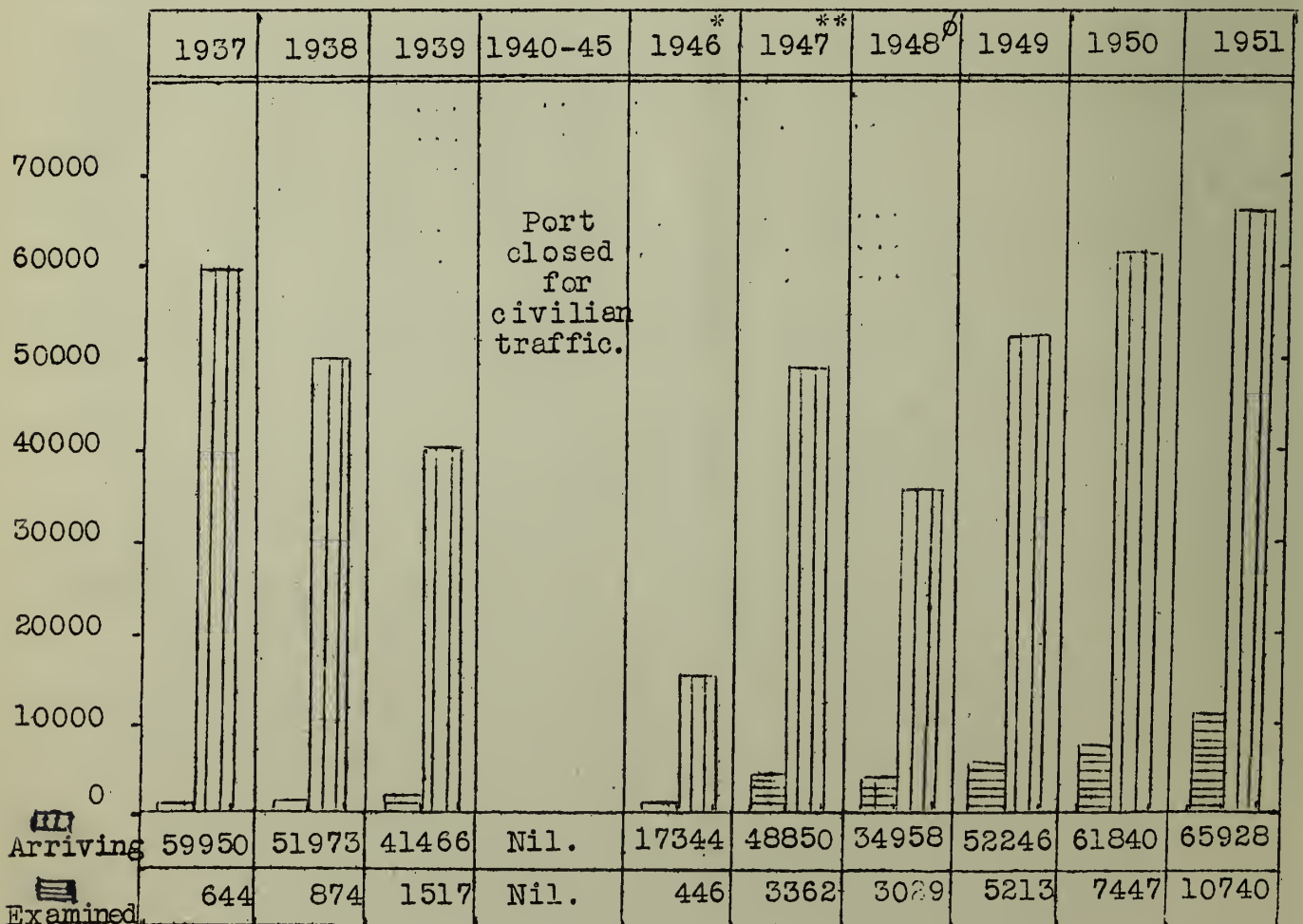
	Total.
1. Returning residents	3,155
2. Aliens in transit	2,268
3. Pleasure visitors (not more than 6 months)	57,425
4. Business visitors (not more than 6 months)	4,089
5. Diplomats, etc.	408
6. Seamen	5
7. Seamen under contract	250
8. Ministry of Labour permits:	
(a) Males	4109
(b) Females	7381
(c) Children	20
9. Other Aliens:	
(a) Males	4227
(b) Females	2328
(c) Children	359

Total: 65,924

The summary below gives particulars of the number of aliens referred by the Immigration Officer for medical examination:-

	<u>Number Examined.</u>	<u>Certificates issued.</u>
1. Ministry of Labour permits	7,930	5
2. Immigrants without M.L. permits ...	351	-
3. Others remaining more than 3 months and intending to take up employment ...	2,436	2
4. Students	8	-
5. Visiting for health reasons	7	1
6. Appearing to the Immigration Officer to be:		
(a) not in robust health	7	2
(b) mentally or physically abnormal or subnormal	-	-
(c) bodily dirty	-	-
(d) in need of medical examination for other special reason	1	-
7. Seamen or airmen travelling as passengers	-	-
Total:	<u>10,740</u>	<u>10</u>

Chart showing the number of Aliens arriving and
medically examined since 1937.



Remarks:

* All passenger services discontinued during November, 1946.

** All passenger services withdrawn on 3rd November, 1947, until end of year.

^ø Regular passenger services commenced on 8th May, 1948.

III. - WATER SUPPLY.

- (1) Source of Supply for: (a) The Port. (b) Shipping.

Water is obtained from the Folkestone Waterworks Company, with the exception of a very limited supply from a source on British Railways own property which is used for flushing sanitary conveniences at the entrance to the Harbour, and for re-filling tanks on locomotives.

- (2) Hydrants and hosepipes. What precautions are taken against contamination?

Routine samples of water used for filling ships' tanks, and for other purposes where drinking water is required, are sent for bacteriological examination.

During the year new automatic couplings have been provided on ship filling points thereby improving the method of connection for hosepipes and lessening the possibility of contamination of the supply.

- (3) Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.

Nil.

IV. - PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1935 to 1945.

- (1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health:

The arrangements are strictly in accordance with the Port Sanitary Regulations.

- (2) Boarding of vessels on arrival:

All passenger vessels met on arrival by Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy and Sanitary Inspector. Cargo vessels visited within short time of arrival by Sanitary Inspector.

- (3) Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.):

All vessels met by H.M. Customs and quarantine questions put to the Master before any communication with shore allowed.

- (4) Mooring Stations designated under Article 10:

- (a) Within the docks.

Their place of mooring, discharge or loading.

- (b) Outside the docks.

A point one mile South by West of Harbour Pier Head.

- (5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14:

Nil.

(6) Experience of working of Article 16.

No experience so far.

(7) What, if any, arrangements have been made for:-

(a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.

Rooms are provided on the train departure platform for the medical inspection of Aliens. Cabins on board Passenger Boats are also available and regularly used.

(b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles:

No facilities exist for cleansing of persons on the harbour. Baths available under the auspices of Folkestone Corporation. Ships' quarters disinfected after infection. Clothing and other articles submitted to steam disinfection.

(c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purposes of the Regulations:

Prolonged detention not envisaged. If necessary provision would be made at Dover Isolation Hospital.

(d) Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases:

Smallpox cases would be admitted to the Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford. Accommodation for other cases of infectious disease would either be at the Dover or Ashford Isolation Hospitals or, in case of difficulty, application made to the Emergency Bed Service.

(e) Ambulance Service:

Patients suffering from Smallpox or Typhus Fever would be removed by arrangement with the Canterbury City Ambulance Service, and all other cases of infectious disease by the Kent County Ambulance Service.

(f) Supervision of Contacts:

Names and addresses taken and forwarded to Medical Officer of Health of area to which the contacts are proceeding.

(8) and

(9) Arrangements for bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague and other bacteriological or pathological examinations:

Facilities exist for examination of bacteriological and pathological requirements at the County Laboratory at Maidstone, with which the Port Medical Officer is in telephonic communication.

- (10) Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under International arrangements, including in-patient treatment; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen:

Where necessary full information supplied to seamen concerned.

Clinics are held at Dover, Canterbury and Ashford.

- (11) Arrangements for the internment of dead:

Adequate. Mortuary available.

THE PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

One bird of the parrot species was landed from France. The owner did not have a licence for its importation and was unable to secure one from the Ministry of Health. The bird was therefore destroyed as is required under the Regulations.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the year.		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Diphtheria "suspect"	2.	-	2.	0.80

Both the patients, females aged 21 and 8 years respectively, were admitted to the Dover Isolation Hospital. The girl was subsequently diagnosed as suffering from Streptococcal Pharyngitis and the other patient from Streptococcal Tonsillitis.

Table "D" shows a "Nil" return.

V. - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague.

(a) In ships in the port:

The nature of the cargoes of vessels trading at this port is not such that would be likely to attract rats in quantity, there being no grain or foodstuffs of that nature discharged here.

The Port Health Inspectors, during the course of inspection, ascertain any undue prevalence of rats.

(b) On quays, wharves, warehouse, &c., in the vicinity of the port:

There are no warehouses or wharfs of that nature in the vicinity of the Port. Periodical inspections by the Port Health Inspectors and attention of the British Railway, Southern Region, called to any undue prevalence of rats.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and shore:

Not found necessary.

(3) Methods of deratisation of:-

(a) Ships.

Fumigation, when necessary, by Dover Port Health Staff.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.

Dealt with by Rat Officer of the British Railways, Southern Region. If required assistance given by the Borough Rodent Operator.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore:

Periodical inspections.

(5) Rat-proofing:

(a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, &c., rat-proof?

No warehouses other than those used by H.M. Customs for bonded goods.

(b) Action taken to extend rat-proofing:

(i) in ships:

Nil.

(ii) on shore:

Nil.

Tables "E," "F," "G" and "H" all show a "Nil" return.

VI. - HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British.	8.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other nations.	4.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

BRITISH VESSELS.

Those entering this Port from Calais and Boulogne are either owned or on charter by the British Railways. The passage being so short very few of the crew sleep on board whilst at Folkestone, but they do so when at a French port.

All vessels are frequently inspected for cleanliness, etc., by the Inspectors.

FOREIGN VESSELS.

- (1) Bi-weekly passenger service from Holland (Flushing) during Summer season (July - September.)
- (2) Occasional holiday craft or small trader.
- (3) Regular daily passenger service from Calais since August until end of year.

VII. - FOOD INSPECTION.

- (1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.

All cargoes inspected.

Summary of Foodstuffs imported during 1951.

FOODSTUFF.	CALAIS		BOULOGNE.	
	tons.	cwts.	tons.	cwts.
Cheese	6	9	6	15
Chocolate	-	-	20	4
Dates	-	-	2140	4
Fish	25	16	35	7
Fruit and Vegetables (various)	5	19	47	1
Gelatine	-	-	3	1
Grapes	25	13	-	-
Lard	2	-	-	-
Mustard	2	2	-	-
Nuts	-	-	25	13
Oranges	-	-	168	10
Potatoes	-	-	53	4
Poultry	-	-	3	19
Preserved Fruit	1306	14	842	15
Preserved Meat (hams, luncheon, etc., canned)	138	13	179	11
Preserves (confectionery, etc.)	10	17	38	5
Vanilla	-	-	1	14
Salami (sausage)	187	9	2	16
Totals:	1709	12	3568	19

Grand Total: 5,278 tons 11 cwts.

These figures show an increase of 57% compared with the total imports of foodstuffs during 1950.

Foodstuffs Condemned.

28 tins of preserved meat.
1 small package of various foods.

Total number of visits to Port ... 813.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937.

During the year one consignment of meat products was landed without an Official Certificate of Inspection and was detained. Statutory Notices forbidding further removal, except for purposes of re-exportation, were served in accordance with the Regulations.

The necessary documents were, however, later produced and in these circumstances the meat products were released.

- (2) Shell-fish: Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of this Authority.

- (3) Number of Samples of Food examined by:-

(a) Bacteriologist: Nil.

(b) Analyst. (Chemical examination): 6 samples.

Nature of Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
Ham (canned.)	Free from metallic contamination. Gelatine content was in sound condition and fat free from rancidity. No gas was present in the can. The meat was in sound condition and fit for human consumption.	This sample taken from consignment where tins were suspected of being blown.
Drained Cherries.	Free from preservatives and metallic contamination and no fermentation present in the syrup.	Routine. Test sample from consignment.
Drained Cherries.	Free from preservatives, metallic contamination and from alcoholic fermentation. Strength of syrup 78% sugar.	Routine. Test sample from consignment.
Drained Cherries.	Free from preservatives, metallic contamination and from alcoholic fermentation. Strength of syrup 76.5% sugar.	Routine. Test sample from consignment.
Ham (canned.)	Jelly firm and fat showed no evidence of rancidity.	Routine. Test sample from consignment.
Drained Cherries.	Free from preservatives and metallic contamination.	Routine. Test sample from consignment.

